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E.O. 12065: GDS 3/6/85 (DEVINE, FRANK J.) OR-M
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: JANUARY 1979

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: JANUARY WAS ONE OF THE WORST MONTHS IN RECENT
MEMORY FOR ROMERO GOVERNMENT AND ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE
ABROAD. GOES EARNED SOME GOOD MARKS FOR RESTRAINT OF
SECURITY FORCES IN FACE OF JANUARY 16 TAKEOVER BY FAPU OF
MEXICAN EMBASY AND SAN SALVADOR OFFICES OF OAS AND RED
CROSS. ALL THIS WAS NEGATED BY JANUARY 20 INCIDENT AT
SAN ANTONIO ABAD, IN WHICH A PRIEST AND FOUR OTHERS WERE
KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES, IN AN EARLY MORNING RAID ON A
CATHOLIC RETREAT. INCIDENT SHARPLY ESCALATED CHURCH-STATE
TENSIONS IN EL SALVADOR AND COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS
DISASTROUS FOR GOES IN TERMS OF FAVORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS
IMAGE IT HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PROJECT ABROAD. DIALOGUE
AMONG PDC-ANEP-CHURCH CONCERNING A "POLITICAL OPENING"
HAD BEEN MAKING SOME PROGRESS, DESPITE FRAGILITY OF
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COALITION AMONG PARTIES INVOLVED, UNTIL SAN ANTONIO ABAD
INCIDENT CAUSED CHURCH TO WITHDRAW FROM ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION IN DIALOGUE. IN OTHER CHURCH-STATE
MATTERS, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO WROTE JAN 12 LETTER TO
PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ASKING FOR AMNESTY
FOR POLITICAL PRISONER, RELEASE OF "DISAPPEARED PERSONS,"
AND DEROGATION OF LAW OF PUBLIC ORDER. ON LABOR FRONT,

IMES STRIKE LASTED FROM JAN 22-30, DURING WHICH TIME STRIKING WORKERS HELD FOUR MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, INCLUDING TWO U.S. CITIZENS, AS HOSTAGES. DESPITE REPEATED EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS, GOES SHOWED ITSELF UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION IN DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

3. FAPU TAKEOVER OF RED CROSS, OAS, AND MEXICAN EMBASSY ON JAN 16, MEMBERS OF LEFTIST UNITED POPULAR ACTION FRONT (FAPU) OCCUPIED SAN SALVADOR OFFICES OF OAS AND RED CROSS AS WELL AS MEXICAN EMBASSY (SAN SALVADOR 304). NATIONAL GUARD AT REQUEST OF RED CROSS CARRIED OUT PEACEFUL REMOVAL OF RED CROSS OCCUPANTS AFTERNOON JAN 16 (SAN SALVADOR 337) WITH ONLY FOUR (ALL REPORTEDLY COLLEGE STUDENTS) OF FORTH OCCUPANTS OF RED CROSS BEING TURNED OVER TO FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR (FOUR WERE SET FREE ON JAN 27 ON GRANDS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.) FIFTY-SEVEN PEOPLE OCCUPYING OAS HEADQUARTERS LEFT PREMISES LATE AFTERNOON OF JAN 17. FORTY-SIX WERE RELEASED AFTER BRIEF STAY AT NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS (SAN SALVADOR 405). ELEVEN WERE TURNED OVER TO SECOND PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR ON JAN 18 AND THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION WAS ORDERED BY COURT ON JAN 25. THE THIRTY OR SO FAPU MEMBERS WHO CARRIED OUT FORCIBLE ENTRY OF MEXICAN EMBASSY TURNED THEIR WEAPONS OVER TO MEXICAN DEFENSE ATTACHE ON JAN 17 AND
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WERE GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM, FOLLOWED BY SAFE CONDUCT OUT OF COUNTRY (SAN SALVADOR 405). FAPU TAKEOVERS, COMING AS THEY DID ON EVE OF PRESIDENT ROMERO'S VISIT TO MEXICO, ASSURED FAPU EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY, WHICH HOWEVER APPEARED TO BE SOMEWHAT DILUTED BY RELATIVE RESTRAINT OF SECURITY FORCES' REACTION TO TAKEOVERS.

4. SAN ANTONIO ABAD - WHATEVER GOOD MARKS GOES MAY HAVE RECEIVED FOR ITS RELATIVE RESTRAIN IN FACE OF FAPU TAKEOVERS WAS UNDONE BY JAN 20 ACTION BY NATIONAL GUARD AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES IN WHICH FATHER OCTAVIO ORTIZ LUNA AND FOUR OTHERS WERE KILLED IN AN EARLY MORNING RAID ON A RETREAT HOUSE ("EL DESPERTAR") RUN BY CATHOLIC CHURCH (SAN SALVADOR 417). INCIDENT

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SHARPLY ESCALATED CHURCH-STATE TENSION IN EL SALVADOR.
TWENTY ADULTS AND TWENTY YOUTHS ARRESTED AT SAN ANTONIO
ABAD WERE TURNED OVER TO COURTS. GOES CONENTIONS THAT
"EL DESPERTAR" RETREAT WAS A CENTER OF "SUBVERSIVE
ACTIVITIES" WERE NOT HELPED BY FACT THAT COURTS FOUND
"NO GROUNDS" FOR CONTINUED DETENTION AND RELEASED ALL
FORTY ARRESTED (SAN SALVADOR 484,524, 565). FOR OTHER
ASPECTS OF INCIDENT, SEE SAN SALVADOR 416, 512,
616, 646, 677.

5. GOES AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES - OFFICIALS OF
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) MET WITH EXILED PDC
LEADER JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE (1972 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE)
AND JOSE MORALES EHRlich (1977 VICE-PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE) IN GUATEMALA CITH JANUARY 7. BOTH DUARTE
AND MORALES WERE REPORTEDLY IN ACCORD WITH PDC ATTEMPTS
TO HELP BRING ABOUT A "POLITICAL OPENING". (SAN SALVADOR
104, 236). AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS WERE BRIEFED ON ONGOING
ATTEMPTS BY PDC AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE (ANEP) TO BRING ABOUT SUCH AN OPENING (SAN
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SALVADOR 100, 107, 282). PDC OFFICIALS EVEN MET WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF RECENTLY FORMED NATIONAL CENTRAL OF
WORKERS (CNT) TO DISCUSS "POLITICAL OPENING" (SAN SALVADOR
287). COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR FEDERATION UNITED CONFEDERA-
TION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (CUTS) CAME OUT WITH ONE-AND-A-
HALF PAGE AD IN JAN 30 "LA CRONICA" ARGUING FOR

"NECESSITY OF A DEMOCRATIC OPENING." HOWEVER, JAN 20 SAN ANTONIO ABAD INCIDENT REPORTEDLY LESSENED ARCH-BISHOP ROMERO'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE CHURCH ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TALKS ALTHOUGH PDC OFFICIALS CLAIMED THAT CHURCH HAD CONSENTED TO HAVE PDC REPRESENT THEM IN ONGOING TALKS (SAN SALVADOR 565, 839). NEVERTHELESS, SAN ANTONIO ABAD PUT SOMETHING OF A DAMPER ON DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING A "POLITICAL OPENING". AT SAME TIME, "OPEN LETTER" TO PRESIDENT ROMERO (THOUGHT TO BE WORK OF RIGHTIST ELEMENTS) WAS CIRCULATED IN WHICH GOES WAS CALLED UPON TO END THREAT OF TERRORISM BEFORE EVEN THINKING OF "A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH POLITICAL ADVERSARIES" (SAN SALVADOR 558, 630).

6. CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS - EVEN WITHOUT SAN ANTONIO ABAD INCIDENT, CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS WOULD HAVE SHOWN LITTLE IMPROVEMENT DURING JANUARY. IN A LETTER (DATED JANUARY 12) SENT TO PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DR. JOSE LEANDRO ECHEVERRIA, ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO ASKED FOR AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, RELEASE OF "DISAPPEARED PERSONS," AND DEROGATION OF LAW OF DEFENSE AND GUARANTEE OF PUBLIC ORDER. ROMERO CLAIMED 72 PERSONS WERE BEING HELD UNDER LAW OF PUBLIC ORDER AND THAT THERE WERE 108 "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS (SAN SALVADOR 391). AT AROUND SAME TIME AS SAN ANTONIO ABAD INCIDENT, PRESIDENT ROMERO DURING A VISIT TO MEXICO STATED PUBLICLY THAT CHURCH WAS NOT BEING PERSECUTED IN EL SALVADOR. CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT ROMERO'S STATEMENTS DREW A SHARP REBUKE FROM ARCHBISHOP ROMERO (SAN SALVADOR 416).

7. LABOR DISTURBANCES - ON JANUARY 22, APPROXIMATELY 300 EMPLOYEES OF INDUSTRIAS MANUFACTURERAS DE EL SALVADOR (IMES), A SUBSIDIARY OF U.S. FIRM TALLER INDUSTRIES, WENT ON STRIKE, FORCIBLY OCCUPYING PLANT PREMISES IN SAN SALADOR AND HOLDING AS HOSTAGES FOUR MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, INCLUDING TWO U.S. CITIZENS. COMPANY WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT ALL DEMANDS MADE BY UNION SITIAS (AFFILIATED WITH COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CUTS) BEFORE FOUR HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED ON JAN 30 (SAN SALVADOR A-15). DESPITE REPEATED EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS, GOES SHOWED ITSELF UNABLE AND/OR UNWILLING TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION IN DISPUTE, WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY SETTLED IN NEGOTIATIONS HELD UNDER AUSPICES OF CATHOLIC VICAR-GENERAL RICARDO URIOSTE IN ARCHBISHOPRIC. FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE SAN SALVADOR 483, 513, 532, 542, 560, 592, AND 619. IN OTHER LABOR DEVELOPMENTS, THE UNION OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (SUTC), PART OF DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION OF UNIONS OF CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION

WORKERS (FESINCONSTANS), SENT A REQUEST AROUND JAN 9 TO NATIONAL GUARD DIRECTOR COL. JOSE ANTONIO CORLETO, ASKING HIM TO RELEASE FIVE SUTC MEMBERS ARRESTED IN OLOCUILTA.

8. CHRONOLOGY OF OPPOSITION, TERRORIST AND SECURITY FORCES ACTIVITIES:

JANUARY 2-3 - NEWSPAPERS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF DECEMBER 30 COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE ACCEPTED MEDIATION OF SALVADORAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CASES OF THREE KIDNAPPED FOREIGN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES STILL BEING HELD BY FARN (SAN SALVADOR 0037, 0080). ON JANUARY 3, SECRETARIAT OF INFORMATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY REITERATED GOES POSITION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORIST GROUPS CONCERNING PUBLICATION WITHIN SALVADORAN NEWSPAPERS OF TERRORIST COMMUNIQUE AND DOCUMENTS (SAN SALVADOR 0037). ON JANUARY 3, SALVADORAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ASKED LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO GRANT A GENERAL AMNESTY AND TO DEROGATE LAW OF PUBLIC ORDER IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH FARN DEMANDS ON RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIMS. (SAN SALVADOR 213).

JANUARY 4 - NATIONAL GUARD ANNOUNCED ARREST OF THREE MEMBERS OF EXTREME LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE (ERP), SAYING THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN AUGUST 10, 1978 KIDNAPPING OF TOMAS ARMANDO MONEDERO(SAN SALVADOR 102). ON JANUARY 5, ERP DENIED THREE WERE MEMBERS. ON JANUARY 8 DUE TO FACT THAT NO ONE FROM NATIONAL GUARD SHOWED UP TO PRESENT EVIDENCE, FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR (ONE OF TWO COURTS THAT TRIED CASES FALLING UNDER LAW OF PUBLIC ORDER) ORDERED THREE TO BE SET FREE (SAN SALVADOR 160).

JANUARY 4 - POLICIA DE HACIENDA TURNED OVER TO FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR PEDRO ANTONIO AGUILAR FUENTES, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED PREVIOUS DECEMBER 30 IN SAN SALVADOR FOR ALLEGED POSSESSION OF A REVOLVER AND "SUBVERSIVE" PROPAGANDA. ON JANUARY 3, FATHER OF AGUILAR HAD SUBMITTED A "HABEAS CORPUS" PETITION TO SUPREME COURT. POLICIA DE HACIENDA LATER REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT AGUILAR WAS MEMBER OF EXTREME LEFTIST TERRORIST GROUP POPULAR FORCES OF LIBERATION (FPL).

JANUARY 4 - EXPLOSIVE DEVICE CONTAINED PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS WAS SET OFF IN SAN SALVADOR. LEAFLETS SPREAD BY EXPLOSION WERE REPORTEDLY THOSR OF FARN.

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JANUARY 4 - SECURITY FORCES CLAIMED THAT THREE MEMBERS OF ERP CARRIED OUT AN ARMED ROBBERY IN SAN MIGUEL.

JANUARY 5 - PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT BY ORDER OF SUPREME COURT DAVID ABREGO AND ROBERTO RAMOS HERNANDEZ, BOTH STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED PREVIOUS JULY FOR ALLEGEDLY VIOLATING LAW OF PUBLIC ORDER, HAD BEEN SET FREE ON GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

JANUARY 6 - COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS WROTE AN OPEN LETTER TO WIFE OF PRESIDENT ROMERO ASKING THAT SHE HELP OUT WITH JANUARY 3 REQUEST OF SALVADORAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT GOES PROCLAIM A GENERAL AMNESTY. COMMITTEE ALSO ASKED HER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FARN REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FIVE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASE OF THREE KIDNAPPED FOREIGN EXECUTIVES STILL BEING HELD BY FARN.

JANUARY 6 - NATIONAL POLICE TECHNICIANS REPORTEDLY DEACTIVATED A BOMB (MADE UP OF FOUR STICKS OF DYNAMITE) AND DESTROYED A FARN BANNER, BOTH OF WHICH HAD BEEN SET ON A LARGE MONUMENT (IN FORM OF A CROSS) NEAR SANTA ANA.

JANUARY 9 - SECURITY FORCES REPORTED THREE TERRORISTS OPENED FIRE ON TWO MEMBERS OF SALVADORAN NAVY RIDING IN A BUS NEAR TOWN OF SUCHITOTO. ONE OF SAILORS WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE ATTACK, THE OTHER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, AND THE BUS DRIVER WAS ALSO KILLED.

JANUARY 11 - PRESS REPORTED THAT A DELEGATION MADE OF MAYORS OF JUTIAPA, CINQUERA, AND TEJUTEPEQUE (ALL LOCATED IN DEPARTMENT OF CABANAS) ASKED LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO DECLARE THE THREE MUNICIPAL AREAS A "CRITICAL ZONE" BECAUSE OF WHAT THREE MAYORS SAID WAS INABILITY OF PEOPLE THERE TO WORK IN PEACE DUE TO INCREASED
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POSSIBILITY OF TERRORIST ACTS.

JANUARY 11 - FPL ISSUED COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING THAT IT HAD THAT DAY BRIEFLY OCCUPIED A FARM IN DEPARTMENT

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OF SANTA ANA IN ORDER TO "AGITATE" AMONG AND HAND OUT
PROPAGANDA TO COFFEE HARVESTERS (SAN SALVADOR 254).

JAN 12 - A DEVICE CONTAINING FARN LEAFLETS WAS
SET OFF IN SAN SALVADOR. LEAFLETS SUPPOSEDLY CONTAINED
"FOURTH PROCLAMATION" OF FARN AND SET FORTH CONDITIONS
FOR RELEASE OF THREE KIDNAPPED FOREIGN EXECUTIVES STILL
BEING HELD BY FARN. PRESS REPORTED THAT PROCLAMATION
HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN A MANAGUA NEWSPAPER ON JAN 9.

JAN 13 - PRESS REPORTED THAT POLICE HAD ARRESTED
A BAND OF COMMON CRIMINALS, WHO HAD ALSO PARTICIPATED
IN A SERIES OF OTHER ROBBERIES AND CRIMES, WITH POSSIBLE
INVOLVEMENT IN NOV 12, 1977 ASSASSINATION OF
BUSINESSMAN RAUL MOLINA CANAS. (LEFTIST TERRORIST GROUP
ORT-FRAP HAD ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE AT TIME SUPPOSEDLY
TAKING CREDIT FOR ACT.) RICARDO ALFONSO LEMUS MERINO
AND ATILIO DE JESUS HERNANDEZ CASTRO WERE TURNED OVER TO
FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SSALVADOR, ACCUSED OF MOLINA
CANAS ASSASSINATION AND ALSO OF HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN
OTHER CRIMES. ON JAN 17, PRESS REPORTED LEMUS
MOLINA HAD BEEN ORDERED BY COURT TO STAND TRIAL BUT THAT
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JUDGE HAD ORDERED DISCONTINUATION OF LEGAL ACTIONS

AGAINST HERNANDEZ. ON JAN 20, PRESCUTORS SAID THEY WOULD APPEAL COURT'S DECISION ON HERNANDEZ.

JAN 15 - NATIONAL GUARD TURNED OVER TO FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR RIGOBERTO JOVEL ALVARADO, ARRESTED JAN 12 IN SAN SALVADOR FOR SUPPOSEDLY BELONGING TO LEFTIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS AND REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF THE PEOPLE (ORT-FRAP) AND BEING IN POSSESSION OF EXPLOSIVES, AMMUNITION, AND SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE. CASE DREW RELATIVELY HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE BECAUSE JOVEL HAS NO RIGHT HAND AND IS SUPPOSEDLY PARALYZED IN HIS LEFT HAND. ON JAN 18, OCURT ORDERED THAT OVEL BE RELEASED ON GRANDS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

JAN 15 - "EL DIARIO DE HOY" REPORTED THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF RODEN HAD ASKED THAT THOSE ORDEN MEMBERS WHO HAD USED THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN A "REPREHENSIBLE AND NEGATIVE MANNER" AND TO COMMIT "ILLEGAL ACTS" BE EXPELLED FROM THE ORGANIZATION.

JAN 15 - OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLO" REPORTED THAT COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSON HAD BRIEFLY OCCUPIED UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION OFFICE IN SAN SALVADOR THAT DAY IN ORDER TO GET COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TO BRING PRESSURE ON GOES TO RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS. "EL DIARIO DE HOY" REPORTED THAT DUE TO PRESENCE OF SECURITY FORCES, ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY DATT, UN OFFICE WAS IN FACT NOT TAKEN OVER BY COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS.

JAN 16 - NATIONAL GUARD ANNOUNCED ARREST OF FOUR ALLEGED FAPU MEMBERS, ACCUSED OF HAVINB BEEN PART OF A GROUP THAT ALLEGEDLY TRIED TO TAKEN OVER FORCIBLY
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A FARM NEAR OPICO ON JAN 13. GROUP UPON BEEING REPELLED HAD SUPPOSEDLY THROWN A BOMB AGAINST ONE OF FARM'S BUILDINGS. PRISONERS DENIED EXTRAJUDICIAL STATEMENTS AND ON JAN 23, FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR ORDERED THEIR RELEASE ON GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

JAN 16 - PRESS REPORTED FPL HAD TAKEN CREDIT FOR JAN 15 SLAYING OF VENANCIO ALAS IN LAS MINAS, NEAR TOWN OF CHALATENANGO. ALAS WAS REPORTEDLY A MEMBER OF ORDEN AND RULING NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY (PCN) AND WAS ACCUSED BY FPL OF HAVING RAPED SEVERAL WOMEN AND HAVING CAUSED ARREST OF MANY FARM WORKERS.

JAN 17 - TWO EXPLOSIVE DEVICES CONTAINING FPL PROPAGANDA WERE REPORTEDLY ST OFF NEAR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION SITE IN SAN MIGUEL.

JAN 17 - ERNESTO LIEBES, AN ELDERLY SALVADORAN

BUSINESSMAN AND HONORARY CONSUL OF ISRAEL WAS KIDNAPPED AT APPROXIMATELY 1230 HOURS IN SAN SALVADOR (SAN SALVADOR 343, 399). ON JAN 22, FARN TOOK CREDIT FOR KIDNAPPING (SAN SALVADOR 428).

JAN 18 - A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS HELD IN SAN SALVADOR IN A UNION HALL. MEMBERS OF PANEL WERE FERNANDO AUGUSTO MENDEZ, ROBERTO LARA VELADO, AND MARIANELLA GARCIA VILLAS, ALL OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF SALVADORAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS BISHOP ARTURO RIVERA Y DAMAS.

JAN 18 - PRESS REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF ALLEGED FAPU MEMBERS HAD SHOWN UP IN CENTRAL MARKET OF SAN SALVADOR, HAD PUT UP A FAPU BANNER AND STARTED HANDING OUT FAPU LEAFLETS. THEY REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THEY WERE GOING TO SET OFF AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND LEFT BEHIND A COVERED BOX WHICH TURNED OUT TO CONTAIN NOTHING MORE THAN ROCKS AND PAPERS. LEAFLETS PERSONS HANDED OUT REPORTEDLY PROTESTED ARREST OF FAPU MEMBERS WHO HAD ONLY RECENTLY OCCUPIED SAN SALVADOR OFFICE OF RED CROSS.

JAN 19 - NATIONAL GUARD REPORTEDLY RELEASED
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THREE YOUTHS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED JAN 17 NEAR PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON SUSPICION OF OBSERVING COMINGS AND GOING OF PEOPLE WHO WORK THERE. UPON A FINDING THAT THERE WAS NO PROOF THAT THREE BELONGED TO ANY TERRORIST GROUP, THE PRISONERS WERE SET FREE.

JAN 19 - NATIONAL GUARD DIRECTOR COL. JOSE ANTONIO CARLOET ISSUED BULLETIN CONCERNING JAN 17 DEATH OF JULIO OTERO, AN ALLEGED MEMBER OF LEFTIST POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR). NATIONAL GUARD CLAIMED OTERO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL VIOLENT INCIDENTS, INCLUDING DEATH PREVIOUS NOVEMBER 9 OF TECOLUCA JUSTICE OF PEACE PEDRO JUAN CORTEZ VENTURA (SAN SALVADOR 334). BULLETIN REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT OTERO PULLED A PISTOL ON NATIONAL GUARD AGENTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO QUESTION HIM AND WAS KILLED AS A RESULT. A DEMONSTRATION OF 400 TO 800 PEOPLE WAS REPORTEDLY HELD BY BPR IN TECOLUCA ON JAN 18 TO PROTEST OTERO'S DEATH. DEMONSTRATION APPARENTLY BROKE UP AFTER 30 MINUTES WITHOUT INCIDENT.

JAN 20 - DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS THREE BOMBS EXPLODED AT JUDICIAL CENTER IN SAN MIGUEL, CAUSING EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE BUT NO INJURIES. FPL LATER TOOK CREDIT FOR ACT.

JAN 21 - THREE ARMED MEMBERS OF FPL TOOK OVER RADIO STATION NEAR SANTA ANA, TIED UP EMPLOYEES, AND LEFT TAPE CONTAINING "SUBVERSIVE" MESSAGE TO BE BROADCAST.

JAN 22 - "LA CRONICA" CARRIED TWO-PAGE AD IN WHICH FAPU SET FORTH A LIST OF 103 POLITICAL PRISONERS.

JAN 22 - NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT FARN HAD

ISSUED ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE REPEATING THAT ONE OF CONDITIONS
FOR RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIMS CHATTERTON, MASSIE, AND
SUZUKI WAS RELEASE OF FIVE POLITICAL PRISONERS. GOES
INDICATED THAT IT COULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH "SUBVERSIVE"
ELEMENTS AND REPEATED THAT IT HAD NO POLITICAL PRISONERS
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(SAN SALVADOR 445).

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JANUARY 24 - "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT JOSE
DOLORES RUIZ AND ALFREDO CONTRERAS LARIOS, TWO MEMBERS
OF AN AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE LIVIN NEAR CHIRILAGUA
(DEPT OF SAN MIGUEL) HAD "DISAPPEARED" PREVIOUS
JANUARY 12. NATIONAL GUARD TURNED TWO OVER TO SECOND
PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR ON JANUARY 26, CLAIMING
THAT THEY WERE MEMBERS OF FAPU. TWO PRISONERS DENIED
EXTRAJUDICIAL STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THEM AND APPARENTLY
PROVED THAT LIST OF SO-CALLED FAPU MEMBERS NATIONAL GUARD
HAD USED WAS IN REALITY LIST OF SALVADORANS BELONGING TO A
RELIGIOUS GROUP BASED IN U.S. THAT GIVES ECONOMIC AID
TO CO-OPERATIVES. COURT ORDERED RELEASE OF TWO PRISONERS
ON JANUARY 27.

JANUARY 24 - TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SANTA ANA (EL SALVADOR'S SECOND LARGEST CITY) WAS CONGESTED DUE TO OBJECTS PLACED NEAR BRIDGES AND ON ROADS THAT GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING BOMBS. FPL BANNERS WERE PLACED WITH "BOMBS" WHICH LATER TURNED OUT TO BE FAKE.

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JANUARY 25 - "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT MIGUEL ANGEL MORENO GARCIA HAD "DISAPPEARED" THE WEEK BEFORE, APPARENTLY IN RELATION TO FAPU TAKEOVER OF OAS AND OTERH BUILDINGS. RELATIVES OF MORENO DENIED HE WAS FAPU MEMBER.

JANUARY 26 - "UNION DE POBLADORES DE TUGURIOS (UPT), A SLUM DWELLERS ASSOCIATION THAT IS PART OF BPR, TOOK OUT AD IN "LA CRONICA" CLAIMING THAT FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 1978, THE OFFICE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SLUM NEIGHBORHOODS (OMCOM), ACTING IN CO-ORDINATION WITH ORDEN, HAD MADE 130 FAMILIES GIVE UP THEIR DWELLINGS ON BASIS OF FAKE PROMISES. UPT CALLED ON OMCOM AND ORDER TO GIVE UP ATTEMPTS TO DISLodge SLUM SWELLERS.

JANUARY 28 - THREE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES CONTAINING FPL PROPAGANDA WERE SET OFF IN CITY OF ZACATECOLUCA. NEWSPAPER "EL DIARIO DE HOY" REPORTED THAT SIMILAR DEVICES HAD BEEN SET OFF WEEK BEFORE IN TOWN OF SAN JUAN NONUALCO, WOUNDING TWO PERSONS WHO WERE CLOSE TO DEVICES WHEN THEY WENT OFF.

JANUARY 29 - COMMUNIST-DOMINATED OPPOSITIONPOLITICAL PARTY NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDN) ISSUED BULLETIN ACCUSING PCN MAYOR OF ZACATECOLUCA MANUEL SALVADOR APARICIO OF VARIOUS ABUSES OF AUTHORITY. UDN ALSO ISSUED A BULLETIN STATING THAT ONE OF ITS MEMBERS JORGE ALBERTO ACOSTA WAS BEING UNJUSTLY SOUGHT BY AUTHORITIES FOR HIS SUPPOSED INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT FAPU TAKEOVERS OF OAS AND OTHER BUILDINGS IN SAN SALADOR.

JANUARY 30 - "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT ON JANUARY 22, NATIONAL GUARD AGENTS BROKE INTO HOUSE LOCATED IN ZACATECOLUCA, SHOT AND KILLED 20 YEAR OLD SANTOS EUGENIO
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RODIGUEZ, BEAT UP MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, AND WRECKED EVERYTHING IN HOUSE. NEWSPAPER BASED ITS INFORMATION

ON ACCOUNT GIVEN BY RODRIGUEZ'S MOTHER.

JANUARY 30 - FIRST PENAL COURT OF SAN SALVADOR ORDERED RELEASE ON GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF CONCEPCION FLORES NAVARRO (ARRESTED PREVIOUS DECEMBER FOR ALLEGEDLY BELONGING TO FECCAS-UTC AND DISTRIBUTING SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA) AND OF JOSE ANDRES LOPEZ (ARRESTED PREVIOUS JULY AND ACCUSED OF BEING A BPR MEMBER).

JANUARY 30 - MANRICIO ANTONIO POSADO, WAS REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED IN SAN SALVADOR BY SEVERAL ARMED MEN BUT WAS SET FREE SHORTLY AFTERWARDS WHEN KIDNAPPERS APPARENTLY FOUND THEY HAD GRABBED THE WRONG MAN.

JANUARY 30 - IN A SPEECH BEFORE A CANADIAN MISSION ON VISIT TO EL SALVADOR, PRESIDENT ROMERO STATED THAT TERRORISM WAS A WORLD-WIDE PHENOMENON AND NOT CONFINED TO EL SALVADOR. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY ATTRIBUTED "LACK OF CO-OPERATION OF CERTAIN SECTORS" OF SALVADORAN SOCIETY FOR FAILURE OF GOES TO CLEAR UP CIRCUMSTANCES OF KIDNAPPINGS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE ACTS.

JANUARY 31 - THREE ARMED MEN AND A WOMAN TOOK OVER RADIO STATION NEAR CHALATENANGO, TIED UP EMPLOYEES, AND LEFT A TAPED-RECORDED "SUBVERSIVE" MESSAGE TO BE BROADCAST. OPERATION WAS REPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT BY FPL. DEVINE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 mar 1979
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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